(i) Extensive afforestation/programmes by State Governments from their own resources as well as with financial assistance from Government of India for afforestation, protection of forests and restoration of ecological balance.

(ii) Implementation of various Externally Aided Projects for conservation and augmentation of forest cover and resources.

(iii) Involvement of village communities for the regeneration of degraded forests through Joint Forest Management.

(iv) Regulation of diversion of forest lands for non-forest purposes under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

(v) Conservation and scientific management of Network of Protected Areas.

Statement

Statement showing State-wise details of Forest Cover as per the State of Forest Report, 1995

Sl. No	State UT	Forest Cover (In sq.km)
1	2	3
1.	Andhra Pradesh	47,112
2.	Arunachal Pradesh	68,621
3.	Assam	24,061
4.	Bihar	26,561
5.	Delhi	26
6.	Goa, Daman & Diu	1,250
7.	Gujarat	12,320
8.	Haryana	603
9.	Himachal Pradesh	12,501
10.	Jammu & Kashmir	20,433
11.	Karnataka	32,382
12.	Kerala	10,336
13.	Madhya Pradesh	1,35,164
14.	Maharashtra	43,843
15.	Manipur	17,558
16.	Meghalaya	15,714
17.	Mizoram	18,576
18.	Nagaland	14,291
19.	Orissa	47,107
20.	Punjab	1,342
21.	Rajasthan	13,280
22.	Sikkim	3,127
23.	Tamil Nadu	17,766
24.	Tripura	5,538
25.	Uttar Pradesh	33,986
26.	West Bengal	8,276
27.	Andaman & Nicobar Islands	7,615
28.	Chandigarh	7
29.	Dadra & Nagar Haveli	204
30.	Lakshdweep*	-
31.	Pondicherry*	-
	Total	6,39,600

*No discernible forest cover.

Automatic Digital Exchanges

681. SHRI P. R. DASMUNSI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Autometic Digital Exchanges in the country, State-wise, and

(b) the number of villages proposed to be connected with the telephones and the said exchanges proposed to be set up during Ninth Five Year Plan?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHIR BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) As on 31.10.97, 22228 number of automatic digital exchanges are working in the country. Circle-Wise details are given in the statement enclosed.

(b) 275839 villages remain uncovered as on 31.10.97. These are planned to be connected during the 9th five year plan. 3763 numbers of exchanges are proposed to be set up during 9th five year plan.

Statement

S.No.	Name of State	No. of auto-digital exchs. as on 31.10.1997	No. of Villages proposed to be connected with telephones	No. of exchanges proposed to be set up during 9th five year plan
1	2	3	4	5
1.	A.P.	1944	7688	150
2.	Assam	285	13224	300
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	65	3092	70
4.	Bihar	827	62919	-
5.	Gujarat	1386	4202	150
6.	Goa	72	82	-
7.	Haryana	758	303	20
8.	Himachal Pradesh	588	11922	200
9.	J & K	230	4300	141
10.	Karnataka	2065	9630	6
11.	Kerala	783	NIL	NIL
12.	M.P.	3067	36159	250
13,	Maharashtra	2718	14205	-
14.	Manipur	30	1935	24
15.	Meghalaya	42	4967	25
16.	Mizoram	36	220	25
17.	Nagaland	34	701	25
18.	Orissa	741	30807	200
19.	Punjab	903	1302	-
20.	Rajasthan	1500	20716	100
21.	Sikkim'WB)	20		8
22.	Tamil Nadu	1433	2743	89
23.	Tripura	48	395	25
24.	Uttar Pradesh	1801	26666	1819
25.	West Bengal	726	17661	136
26.	Delhi	126		-
	Total	22228	275839	3763

Construction of Kanhar Bridge

682. SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR GANGWAR: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sought from Central Road Fund for the construction of Kanhar bridge (Sonbhadra district) and the details thereof; and

(b) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?